

CITIZENS OF TWO KINGDOMS
HOW TO HONOR GOD WHILE LIVING UNDER HUMAN AUTHORITY
ROCKY RIVER CHURCH – FAITH & FREEDOM – JUNE 14, 2026
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Romans 13 – Christians are loyal citizens of their nation, but their ultimate allegiance belongs to Christ.

ROMANS 13:1-7

¹ Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

⁶ Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

FIVE PRINCIPLES THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND OUR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND GOVERNMENT:

#1. God is the source of _____.

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.” -Romans 13:1

God has established **three institutions** of authority in human society:

- **The _____.**

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” -Genesis 2:24

- **The _____.**

“Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.” -Ephesians 2:20

- **The _____.**

“If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.” -Genesis 9:6

#2. Rebellion against God's order has _____.

“So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.” -Romans 13:2

#3. Government exists to _____.

“For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.” -Romans 13:3-4

#4. Christians should be known for _____.

“So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.” -Romans 13:5-7

#5. Our highest allegiance _____.

QUESTION: When is it right to disobey the civil authorities?

ANSWER: When the higher laws of God conflict with the lower laws of man, or, whenever your conscience would be violated if you had to obey the civil authorities.

THREE EXAMPLES OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN THE BIBLE:

- **Exodus 1** – Pharaoh's orders to the midwives to kill newborn Hebrew boys
- **Daniel 6** – The law requiring the people to worship Nebuchadnezzar
- **Acts 5** – Peter and John preaching the Gospel

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.” -1 Timothy 2:1-4

“So if the Son sets you free, you are

truly free.” -John 8:36



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